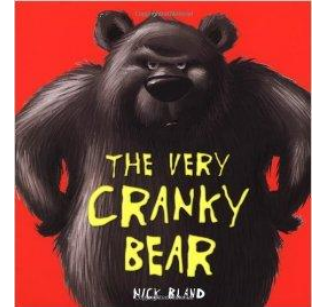




The Very Cranky Bear by Nick Bland

“Nick Bland's expressive, adorable illustrations complement delightful, rhyming, read-aloud text in this lesson about the importance of sharing with others. Moose, Lion, Zebra, and Sheep take shelter in a cave on a cold and rainy day, only to realize that a bear is there. ...Is there anything the four well-meaning friends can do to help the bear sleep?” – Indigo.ca



Introduce the book by asking the children if they know what “cranky” means. What do they do when they feel cranky? What helps them feel better? See if they can guess why the bear is cranky as you read the book.

Art/Craft

Print an outline of the zebra, moose, sheep and lion. Set out a variety of loose parts for the children to decorate each animal—what could children use as zebra stripes? What might they use for antlers? Get creative!

Emotional Literacy

Create a bear puppet (e.g. paper-bag or fur mitt), and have children ask the bear questions about why he is cranky, and what he really wants based on the story. Children can explore the feelings of the different animals within the story (scared, confused, happy, cranky), and talk about what they do when they are cranky, and what they can do to make themselves or others feel better (listen to music, talk to someone, do a sport, cry, tickles etc.).

Game

Create a matching game, using images of a lion, moose, sheep and zebra. Match pictures of a mane, antlers, wool and stripes to the respective animal.

Gross Motor

Challenge children to move like the animals in the story. Lumber like a bear, skip like a sheep, bounce like a zebra, and strut like a lion.

Literacy/Numeracy

Create a sheet of clip art bears in two different sizes. Have a legend indicating all large bears be colored one colour, and all small bears be colored another.

As another option, for older children, have them color different numbers of bears different colors (e.g. 20 bears: 3 red, 2 blue, 3 yellow, 7 green, 5 purple.)

Media

Download “The Very Cranky Bear” app for the iPad (if cost is not an issue). Players can record their voice to narrate the story, as well as search for 5 hidden cards to unlock a secret surprise.

Sensory

Using brown paint, have the children paint their hands and create a handprint. The fingers become the legs, and the thumb becomes the bear’s tail. When it dries, children can glue on a pre-made bear head, or use their own photograph.

